

INTRODUCTION

The reliable measurement of environmental pollutants is essential in making decisions for waste management and public health protection. The measurement of these pollutants in multimedia is by no means a trivial task. Given that the physical and chemical properties of certain wastes are inherently complex, producing reliable data on the distribution and concentration of pollutants in the environment is an arduous task, often requiring specialized training. As a result, sampling and analysis can be the most expensive and time consuming aspects of a project. More importantly, errors in sample collection, sample handling, or analysis can invalidate projects or add to the overall project costs.

The ECL User's Manual was written to provide sampling guidelines as well as information on the efficient use of laboratory services. This document was written by staff of the Environmental Chemistry Laboratory (ECL) and the Public Health Institute (PHI) with input from other programs in the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and the Environmental Chemistry Laboratory - Southern California (ECL-SC).